



# U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

## Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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## **Senator Gregg Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Make Medication Safer for Kids**

***HELP Committee Chaired By Senator Gregg Will Mark Up the Bill Tomorrow***

**Washington, DC**—Senator Judd Gregg (R-New Hampshire) today joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers at a news conference to introduce the Pediatric Drugs Research Authority bill. The legislation is designed to make drugs and other medications safer for children by ensuring that drug companies take the needs of children into account during clinical trials.

“A one size fits all approach is never a good idea, especially when it involves giving adult sized medications to children. In the not too distant past, there was no federal program at all to help develop drugs specifically for children. We changed that with the 1997 Better Pharmaceuticals for Children Act and the 2001 Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. But that effort still left some gaps in coverage. The legislation we are introducing today fills those gaps,” Senator Gregg said.

“In this legislation, we give the FDA the authority to meet with companies early in the drug development process and work with them to integrate testing specifically for children in the earliest stages of clinical trials. This legislation makes sure the FDA and drug companies are working together to develop drugs that are safe and effective for the most precious group of people we can possibly treat in the health care community...our kids,” Senator Gregg said.

Joining Senator Gregg at the news conference was Bill Belfiore, the father of four adopted HIV positive children. Belfiore and his wife Susan adopted the children from an orphanage in Romania where the children contracted HIV after receiving tainted blood transfusions. Belfiore talked about the impact the legislation will have on his children, whose lives depend on medications developed largely for adults.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee chaired by Senator Gregg will mark up the legislation on Wednesday morning. The bipartisan group of cosponsors includes Senators Dodd (D-Connecticut), Clinton (D-New York) and DeWine (R-Ohio).

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